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THE MAYANS

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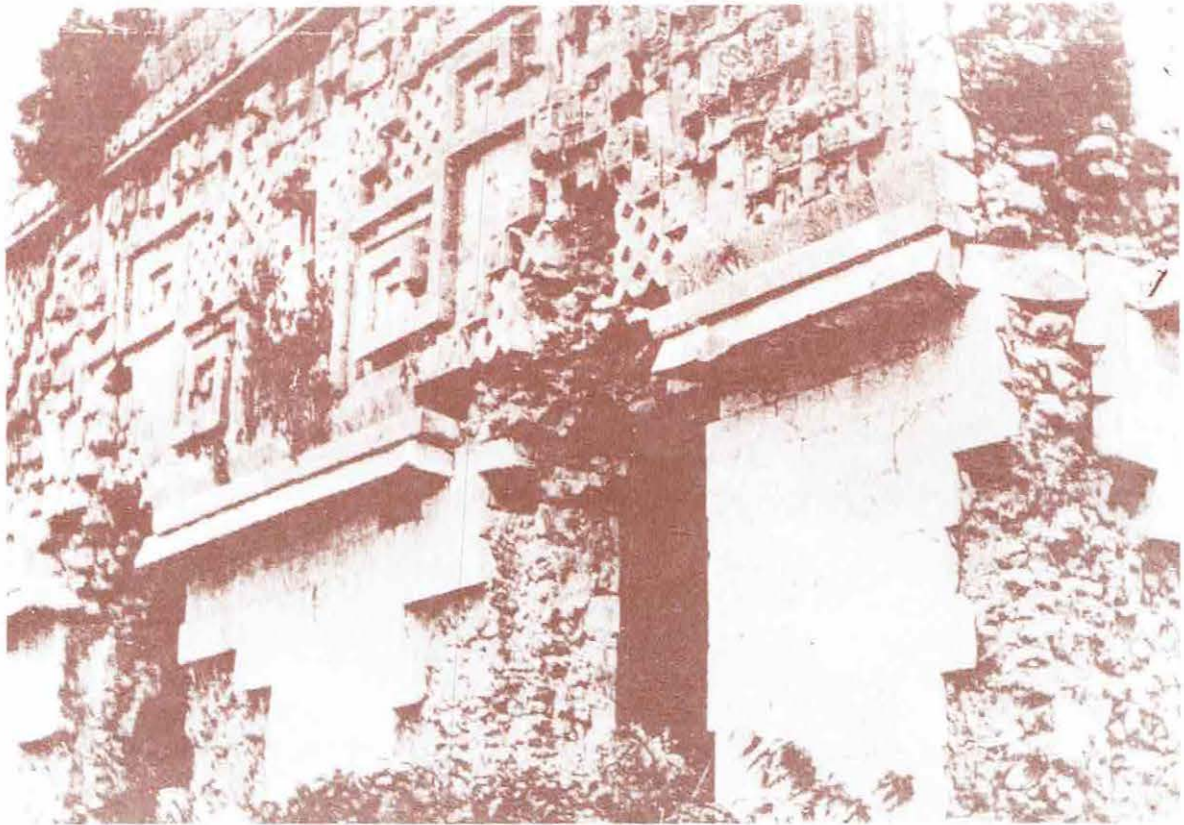
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**YOU UNLIMITED
SETTING YOUR GOAL**

Prayer

**The Farther Aim
The Pattern
Look Up First
Some By-Products**

**Making an Approach
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Charting the Good Life
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Beloved Centurion:

In the first lesson of this series, YOU UNLIMITED, I told you that in your next lesson I would tell you more stories of our members who have built wonderful lives as a result of following the Mayan Pattern set forth in our teachings.

It takes care, patience and thought to build a perfect life. We are members of the modern Mayan Order, and we can aspire to build our lives as those ancient Maya built beautiful buildings, without the benefit of our means; and even without the aid of present-day methods they were able to build glorious temples which were masterpieces of architecture, as evidenced by the illustration which we have used as a frontispiece in this lesson. You will notice we have pictured archaeological ruins of temples which I photographed in Chichen Itza. Even in these ruins you can see the skill and artistry which went into the building, They built carefully and thoughtfully and beautifully, and it is in this same manner that YOU UNLIMITED would have you fashion your pattern for living - according to the Mayan Way.

I told you in the first lesson of this series about a man in Canada who had built a new and successful life through Mayanry. I give you now a letter, and, while I will not violate the confidence of the lady who wrote it, her letter is on file at Headquarters. Here is what she said about the new life she has built:

"I have been practicing the Mayan teachings to the best of my ability. Recently my husband keeps telling me I have never looked so beautiful (I think this is inner peace and security shining out) and that I am nicer to him, the children and friends than ever before. My mother tells me how well I look. My Dad has been commenting on my appearance and patience with the children and I have become my sister's confidante. I now have so many friends coming to our house that I hardly have a free moment. I have lost a most ungovernable temper and have become patient, calm and understanding of others. It seems that I love everyone. Life is worth living - each day I see the blessings. Before I felt only unhappiness and sickness. I could write a book on how my life has changed. All I ask is that I continue to get the Mayan lessons. THEY HAVE TAUGHT ME HOW TO LIVE. Bless you for them."

I have not set down here the entire letter. This member also says that when she joined the Mayan Order she and her husband were on the verge of separation because of her temper, so you can see that she has indeed built a NEW LIFE.

I am relating some of these stories to you, because I want to impress on our members at all times that no matter how difficult the problem may seem in your life, there is a solution. Life can be beautiful, but, as your instructor, and in view of my vast experience, I know that it is not always easy. For some it is harder than for others, depending upon the obstacle which must be surmounted.

I like these words of Carlyle, wherein he says, "Have a purpose in life, and having it, throw into your work such strength of mind and muscle as God has given you."

Your Companions at Headquarters are ever ready to extend a helping hand. You have our sympathetic understanding. We know what you are trying to accomplish. Our prayers are with you and for you. And it is in this spirit that we join in saying the words of the following prayer:

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I am undertaking an advance in my plan and purpose of living. I am now about to consider the definite goal I want to reach. Help me to see clearly what my life can and should be, and guide me as I set out in that direction. Amen.

SETTING YOUR GOAL

THE FARTHER AIM

*I*N setting out on any kind of journey one wants to know where he is going. In undertaking anything one needs to know why he is doing it, and what he desires to accomplish by it.

Consider the direction you are going now. Where will it lead you if you keep on going that way? Is that the destination you wish to reach? Be sure it is, or else change it for one you are sure is right for you. What kind of person do you want to be? What kind of life do you want to live? What do you want its results to be for you, for others, and for the human race?

Take that for your goal and do not be timid about it. You should aim at the best possible thing, and nothing less. You can accomplish something really worth while if you will believe in yourself and trust God.

If you were organizing a business corporation you would be expected to state the purpose of it. You would need to say whether its purpose is profit or non-profit, and in either case what its product is to be.

In the material sense you are not seeking profit, but in the sense of life values you are. You are undertaking to organize your life and bring it into control so it can produce more satisfaction, happiness, and effectiveness, to enjoy and to share. Of course when one does that he is likely to earn a better living because he knows better how to live, but that is a by-product. Never allow it to become a prime consideration. You do not need to worry about it. It will take care of itself. Just think about becoming the best possible self.

But it is not enough to say you are starting out to make as much as possible of your life. That is true, but it is too general to work by. You need to have a detailed plan. One does not say he is going to build a house or a bridge, and begin with only that in mind. He develops detailed plans to go by. You need to do the same.

Even before you decide how you are going to go about it you need to decide what you are going to do. That has everything to do with how you will go about it. Later lessons will discuss how to go about it, but this one is devoted to the question of what it is you propose to go about.

That means that while you will later be going about a work of organization and building, you are now considering a pattern to work by. See yonder among the years the kind of person you want to be, and consider very carefully whether it really is that. If it is, that is your goal toward which to move.

THE PATTERN

*W*HAT, then, is the pattern to which you would really like to work? The more clearly you see it now, the less changing, revising, and readjusting you will have to do as you go along.

Do you remember how, when your mother was planning to make a garment, she began by laying out a pattern by which to cut the pieces that were to be sewed together? When these pieces were assembled and connected, they composed the garment that was in her mind's eye before she began.

In the plate shop of a shipyard is a set of patterns, one for each piece of steel to be welded into the proposed vessel. They do not look like a ship, but no ship could be built without them. You need templates for the kind of life you propose to live, and you need to see in your mind's eye what the result will be when the pieces are cut and put together.

In one of his poems Longfellow calls on an imaginary shipbuilder to do his work well. The same plea might be addressed to one concerning the building of his life. Can you not hear it pleading with you as a ship might plead with its builder?

"Build me straight, O worthy master,
Staunch and strong, a goodly vessel,
That shall laugh at all disaster,
And with wave and whirlwind wrestle."

You need to do more than ask yourself what kind of life you want to live now. You need to consider what kind of a life you will be best satisfied with in future years. Will your judgment change? Will your taste in kinds of living develop, mature, and perhaps improve?

Remember that whatever your life becomes, you will have to live with it when the years have done their work with your tastes and ways of thinking. Better try, then, to work toward something that will be satisfying to the you that will exist when the work is done.

You may not know now just what that will be, but of this much you can be assured today. In your more mature years the surer and more solidly built the structure is, and the better it serves its purpose, the better satisfied you will be with it. By then you will have forgotten how gaily the banners waved on

launching day, and will be thinking more of how the vessel has functioned and is holding up.

It would also be well now to ask yourself another question. How will the pattern you are choosing look to your loved ones, your friends, your associates, your generation, and those to come after it? This too might well be a factor in the choice you make, the kind of work you do, the kind of life you live, and the kind of pattern you are laying out. Make it good, and you will have no regrets.

You might never have laid out such a plan if you had not made up your mind to begin operating under the charter of YOU UNLIMITED.

LOOK UP FIRST

*F*EWER enterprises of any kind would fail if the people who undertake them would look up first. Too many lay out their plans and undertake to carry them out, thinking of nothing else. If they begin to fail, they look up in anguish to the God whose approval and guidance they should have sought in the beginning. If they seem to be doing fairly well they may never look up at all, and the results of what they call a success are sodden, earthy, and temporary, rather than exalted, satisfying, and everlasting.

Whatever you do, your first necessity is a religious belief that is genuine and deep-reaching. A half-way, indefinite assumption of some hazy thing that makes no real difference one way or another is not what is meant. We are here referring to a life of faith, prayer, practice, and growth. Try as you may to build a life without it, but the final result will not be good. It would be too much like a plant without a flower, a world without a sky, a body without a soul.

When you are puzzled, confused, or weary, have an altar to which you can go and a Divinity to whom you can pray. Give at least a few minutes every day to the reading of the great Book of Specifications. Be related to some group in which you can work cooperatively for the triumph of God's will in your life and in the world. Have a sense of the Infinite in your heart so you will never lack for a source of inspiration. Otherwise you will be trying to build something with no foundation under it.

Choose your faith, but have one. Choose your group, but belong to one. Choose your religious program, but practice one. Choose your way to God, but have one. These in themselves will be long steps toward the assured success of YOU UNLIMITED.

Do not put your dependence in someone else's religion. That will do no good. Have your own, and make it real. You can't depend on someone else for other things. Even less can you do so for your personal faith and practice. Others may help, teach, and inspire you; but faith and works is a strictly do-it-yourself affair.

Be intelligent and informed about your religious life. Learn the what and the why, and do something about it. Don't carry your religion around like an unplanted and therefore unproductive seed. Plant it, tend it, and watch it grow.

Do not let trends, customs, and passing styles in human thinking, of what will be your greatest help and deepest comfort as you work and build through the years. Conditions may change, but the Divine Power is unchanging. Whatever conditions may prevail, God is the final and sufficient answer. He will be the final factor in how you get on, so let Him also be the first.

This is the first thing to put into your pattern. In fact, it is the mould into which the whole pattern should be cast. With it YOU UNLIMITED will not fail.

SOME BY-PRODUCTS

*Y*OUR religious faith will be indispensable in living a well-managed life not only because it is the best central driving force and control, but also because it produces certain by-products that will strengthen your way of living and improve its results. Of these there are many but here we will give space to three. They are things that, while religion may not mention them specifically, always go along with it. The three we will mention are a tremendous help in carrying on any business, and especially that of living a high grade life. They are good taste, good judgment, and good manners.

If you really make religion a vital factor in your life you will soon find yourself exercising good taste in your own ways and respecting it in the lives of others. That is because RELIGION IS A REFINING INFLUENCE. IT MAKES FOR CULTURE AT ITS BEST.

Learning, for instance, follows in its train. People who learn to know God soon find themselves wanting to know more about the works He has made and to have their children do so. St. John said of Jesus that in him was life, and the life was the light of men. Wherever faith goes, light follows.

The sons of Eli were evildoers, and there was a reason. It was said of them that they were base men. That is, they were coarse and unrefined, which opened the way to evil. Evil is wrong for many reasons, one of which is that it is in such poor taste.

Speaking of good judgment, have you not noticed that people who walk with God are harder to deceive and that they make fewer mistakes? That is because the divine spirit quickens the human mind and enables one to make the most of its processes. The mind that has not invited the guidance of God has nothing to defend it from error, and it soon reaches the point where it does not know how to choose the safe road. THE EFFECT OF FAITH ON MISGUIDED MINDS WOULD BE TO ENABLE THEM TO SEE THEIR WAY.

Who gets on well either in business or life unless he has learned good manners? How can one know God, one of whose attributes is infinite wisdom, and the Christ who was the most gracious man who ever lived, and not realize the importance of well-mannered behavior? Wherever you find one who has learned to walk with God, you will find one who gets along better and lives a truer life for being a gentleman or a lady.

It is often said that true etiquette is nothing more nor less than having

respect for other people's rights and feelings. That, carried into all one's dealings, is the practice of the golden rule, which is one of the fundamentals of the Christian religion. It represents an attitude that comes from the mind of God. The one who has it may not know it, but HE HAS SAT AT THE FEET OF THE MASTER.

THESE AND OTHER BY-PRODUCTS OF FAITH IN GOD, THEN, WILL HELP TO MAKE YOU A SUCCESS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF YOU UNLIMITED.

MAKING AN APPROACH

*H*OLDING things as a clear conception of what they might be made to become, makes you a true idealist. As long as you remained merely a realist you looked at your present situation and accepted it as final. The world thinks a realist is one who keeps his feet on solid ground, and that an idealist is a dreamer of dreams and not a doer of deeds. It could not be more mistaken on either count.

A realist is one who accepts what is with no thought of change or improvement. An idealist is one who proposes to move on from what is to something better, and he is practical enough to keep the pattern of it before him to work by.

If you are irrevocably committed to realism you might as well stop now, for one who is satisfied with things as they are is no candidate for improvement. But if you want to do better and make the world better, put the working model of your plan against the sky before you and start working toward it.

That will make you an idealist, or one who uses the condition that is for a stepping stone to a better condition of which he now cherishes only the "idea". Every great achievement and every great life is a structure that has been created on that basis.

Any person or number of persons planning a business of any kind must be practical idealists if they hope to succeed. They naturally want their enterprise to expand, and develop, and do better every year. It will if they set up wise and sound ideas and then work to realize them.

You have to do the same in conducting the business of YOU UNLIMITED. Unless you have plans for it there is small reason to bother with it, and unless the plans are good it will not prosper anyway. It is by setting up something toward which to reach, for which to strive, that we bring about progress and improvement. That is the way of the idealists.

We said in the section just before this that anyone undertaking to live his life in the best possible way would find a sincere and effective religious faith one of the prime necessities. One reason for this is that religious faith is the highest form of idealism. It strives for the best possible people, living the best possible life, in the best possible world. That is one hundred percent idealism, and plenty of people can testify that it is effective.

Make up your mind, then, what you want to accomplish, set the plans before

you, and build as you can. Try to be sure that each day brings you a little nearer to its realization, for that is the work of the idealist - turning the ideal into the real. Try to have a plan that is worthy of you and the efforts of your active lifetime, for the results will live.

BIG BUSINESS

*W*OULD you like to get into the big business class? The best way to do it is to take a business and make it big in the best sense. You might not be able to do that with some commercial corporation, but you certainly can do it with the management of your life, which is far more important.

It is big business for a youth to take the makings of a life God has given him - strength, time, talent, opportunity, and all such things - and so put them together like a vast picture puzzle that a great ultimate design begins to take shape and is finally completed.

It is big business for an older person who has deferred getting started on this highly important enterprise and who begins, however belatedly, to make use of the wonderful opportunity that has been his all along. Time may have shortened his days of labor a little, but he can still do something of which he may be justly proud.

It is big business for anyone who has failed, whether by his own fault or not, to realize that the broken fragments lying around him are still good for something important and to begin redesigning something fine and worthy that can still be made of them.

One of the prophets speaks of a potter who ruined the vessel he had on the wheel, fashioning into a certain design. It can no longer become what was first intended, so he redesigns it into something that can still be made of it and that is still worthwhile. It is big business to do that with one's life, and the person who undertakes it may develop so much incentive that he will ultimately do better than many others who had a better chance.

It is big business to dream a great dream, see a great vision of life as it might be made to be, and to be willing to work through the years to bring it to pass. Joseph was such a dreamer. So was Jesus. So is anyone whom a dream has possessed.

It is big business to accomplish the construction of a great life, built on the enduring principles of judgment, conscience, good will, and helpfulness. It is big business to have people in many places for whom the sun shines brighter because one has lived and served.

It is big business to live and work so that, however slowly, the tide of the world's life is turned into better directions. It was a great thing for the Creator to make the world. It is also a great thing to cooperate with Him in making the life of that world what He meant it to be.

It is big business you are going into as you operate YOU UNLIMITED. Keep

it true to its trust, so its results will be as great and good as its plan. The captain of material industry may be remembered for a generation, but the captain of character and personality industry will be remembered many times as long.

CHARTING THE GOOD LIFE

*W*HAT is the ideal life? That is something you will have to work out for yourself as time goes on. If you observe, and think, and test, and learn, you will in time have quite an elaborate program which can not only be read on paper but seen in your life. But you have to begin somewhere, and it is well to begin rather simply.

The Hebrew race became a very great power and it began with the ten simple propositions of the Decalogue. That would not be a bad start, but always remember to not let things be only starts. You must keep growing.

In the Fourth Psalm David has given us a thoughtful and workable formula that would make a good start toward an adequate working plan. He says: "Stand in awe, and sin not. Commune with your own heart (meditate) upon your bed, and be still (go into silence). Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in Jehovah."

In the first six verses of the Twenty-first Psalm a broader platform is laid down where the psalmist describes the kind of person one must be to be fit to approach the throne of grace at all. You can read and ponder it for yourself, as you perhaps have already done. If so, the next thing is to begin putting it to practical use.

Henry Van Dyke has a single little verse that some have found a good starting point for honest-to-goodness living. It runs:

"These four things a man must do,
If he would keep his record true:
To think without confusion clearly,
To love his fellow men sincerely,
To act from honest motives purely,
To trust in God and heaven securely."

Philip James Bailey has given us lines which at least offer a good beginning appraisal of what life is and what it means. He writes in part:

"We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.
We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives
Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best;
And he whose heart beats quickest lives the longest."

What finer blueprint could one find to start with than the majestic and inclusive Sermon on the Mount, or even the outstanding points in it picked out and listed? Some call it visionary, but it is really the most practical platform ever devised. One can see that in it the Master was really setting up a kind of

YOU UNLIMITED for the human race, including you.

When a good executive lays out a set of principles of operation he follows it and keeps trying to improve and strengthen it. Remember that your plan, when it is devised, is not something to keep in storage, but to use.



MEDITATION

For my starting point I set the highest principles of integrity I know. As I become able to see more clearly and have more experience I will improve them.

YOUR CLASS INSTRUCTOR.



In the next lesson we take up the subject of HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR LIFE FOR LIVING, covering the following:

PRAYER

YOUR PURPOSE

PERSONNEL

CHECKING WASTE

RAW MATERIALS

PROFIT OR NON-PROFIT

KEEPING GOING

LAYING OUT A PLAN

MEDITATION

